

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01

PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SAJ-01

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R 061442Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2493

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: HU, EEWT

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN MEDIA REACTION TO TRADE BILL

1. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF QUOTING ONLY TASS AND IZVESTIYA DISPATCHES, FOLLOWED BY TWO DAYS OF COMPLETE SILENCE, FIRST HUNGARIAN COMMENTARY ON TRADE BILL APPEARED IN HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG JANUARY 3 UNDER PEN OF INFLUENTIAL AND AUTHORITATIVE FOREIGN EDITOR PETER VAJDA.

2. VAJDA'S ARTICLE ENTITLED "THEY MISREAD THE CALENDAR" CRITICIZES SENATOR JACKSON AND HIS QUOTE SMALL BUT INFLUENTIAL GROUP OF ASSOCIATES UNQUOTE WHO SUCCEEDED IN MODIFYING TRADE BILL IN A WAY CONTRARY TO US INTERESTS BY

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INTRUDUCING AMENDMENT WHICH HAS NO RELATION TO TRADE

AND REPRESENTS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

3. VAJDA MENTIONS SPECIFICALLY THAT THE AMENDMENT
IS RELATED TO EMIGRATION AND STATES THAT THESE
"PRECONDITIONS", INSTEAD OF ERASING DISCRIMINATORY
OBSTACLES TO TRADE STEMMING FROM THE COLD WAR, SEEK
TO PLACE NEW POLITICAL OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF NORMAL
TRADE, AND DAMAGE THE PROGRESS OF DETENTE.

4. ARTICLE REFERS TO STATEMENTS BY SENATOR FULBRIGHT
AND UAW PRESIDENT LEONARD WOODCOCK, PRAISING THEIR
PUBLIC STANDS AGAINST THE JACKSON AMENDMENT, AND
SAYING THAT WHILE THEY ALSO REPRESENT AMERICAN
INTERESTS, THEY UNDERSTAND THAT TRADE CAN ONLY BE
CARRIED OUT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL BENEFITS.

5. VAJDA CONCLUDES THAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND THE
QUOTE ISOLATION OF THE LAST OF THE COLD WAR MOHICANS
UNQUOTE DEPEND ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE US
FORCES WHICH HAVE BECOME PARTNERS WITH THE SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES IN THE QUEST FOR DETENTE.

6. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY
CONTINUES TO EXIST IN HUNGARIAN CIRCLES ON HOW TO
REACT TO THE TRADE BILL, IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET
REACTION, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE COME AS A SURPRISE.
THIS EXPLAINS THE GREAT CAUTION WITH WHICH ISSUE WAS
HANDLED AND FACT THAT VAJDA'S ARTICLE IS ONLY EDITORIAL
COMMENT TO HAVE APPEARED SO FAR. THIS MAY BE MINIMUM
REQUIRED TO MAKE RECORD OF BACKING SOVIET POSITION,
BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT LOCALLY GUIDANCE HAS GONE
OUT NOT TO CRITICIZE TRADE BILL FURTHER. THIS
WOULD EXPLAIN ABSENCE OF ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT,
AND MAY BE INTENDED TO PROTECT HUNGARY'S OWN POSITION
VIS-A-VISA TRADE BILL.
PEDERSEN

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